

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
882	Both	J.9	Please describe the Government's intended use of J.9 cross reference tables. How should inconsistencies between the tables and the RFP text be addressed? Would the Government please add a table so that a contractor can add missing requirements to the J.9 tables?	<p>To ease the proposal submission process for offerors and the evaluation process for the Government, the Government has extracted "shall" statements from the Universal and Enterprise RFPs and organized them into respective Attachment J.9 Cross Reference Tables. These tables are provided to assist offerors in responding to the RFPs. However, it remains the responsibility of the offeror to ensure that submitted cross reference tables accurately and completely respond to the requirements as specified in the Request for Proposal. Accordingly, Attachment J.9 states "In the event that there is a conflict between the cross reference tables and the referenced requirements in the RFP, the RFP shall take precedence." This includes adding to the cross tables any requirements an offeror believes that the Government did not include and/or correcting existing table entries.</p> <p>To assist offerors in making needed corrections or additions, the Government will add two types of tables to Section J.9 as follows: Content Corrections to Previously Issued Attachment J.9 Tables Requirements - This table type will be populated with individual table entries that must be corrected due to error in the previously-issued Attachment J.9 tables or due to amendments to the RFP text. The individual table entries in this table type will replace the corresponding previously-issued table entries. Omissions to Previously-Issued Attachment J.9 Tables Requirements - This table type will be populated with table entries for requirements that are in the RFP but were omitted from the previously-issued tables. The table entries in this table type will be in addition to the contents of previously-issued tables.</p> <p>The Government will issue these table types in a forthcoming RFP amendment. The Government will populate the tables with its own corrections and additions. The Government will also provide a structure creating additional space for the offeror to enter proposed statements of requirements that it believes are necessary to correct inconsistencies between the Attachment J.9 tables and the RFP text as modified by amendments. Entries by the offeror for either of these table types shall be limited to bringing the Attachment J.9 tables into strict agreement with the RFP text.</p>

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883	Both	L.34.1	<p>There is confusion over whether or not a point-by-point response for every requirement in Section C is required. Section L.34.1 states that the "...offerors shall address the mandatory technical requirements..." and that "Proposal responsesshall include all mandatory services..." There are a number of additional places within the directions which also suggest full point-by-point response. A sample follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · "The offeror shall describe the means by which the requirements ...in Section C.2 Technical Requirements will be satisfied." (Section L.34.1.4) · "The offeror shall describe each of the optional services offered." (Section L.34.1.4.6) · "The offeror shall describe the means by which the requirements for Management and Applications Services specified in Section C.2 Technical Requirements will be satisfied." (Section L.34.1.5) <p>Directions on Font size (Section L.33(d)) that require embedding the "RFP requirements...in the proposal..." and the page limit in Table L.33-2 further suggest a complete point-by-point response.</p> <p>Apparently contradicting these requirements are references in Section J, repeated in Section L, that suggest that the only point-by-point responses that are required are for exceptions/deviations taken for the Stipulated Requirements and for the relatively small number of Narrative Requirements. Sample references are Sections L.34.1.2(b) and L.34.1.2(c); J.9 (b) (1); and the instructions for the Technical Volume Narrative Requirements (page J-1353).</p> <p>This vendor does understand that some of the information found in Section C, as well as additional information is required by the proposal instructions outside of the J.9 tables.</p> <p>Please Clarify.</p>	<p>The government requires point by point responses for all narrative responses in the Attachment J.9, Cross Reference Tables and the rationale for any exceptions /deviations that are taken for any requirement in the RFP. The government does not require a response to any stipulated requirement unless an exception or deviation is taken. The offeror is responsible for responding to all requirements in the RFP (including Section C) whether or not the requirement is listed as either stipulated or narrative requirements in Attachment J.9. The RFP will be amended to allow the offeror to identify requirements that it believes have been omitted from the cross-reference tables . The responses to all RFP requirements should be embedded in the proposal text unless excepted by the instructions in Section L.33 (a) or Section L.33.3 (e.g., cross-reference tables).</p>
884	Both	C.2.5.1.3.1	<p>OC192 is noted as optional in SONET but not in PLS. We recommend that PLS is updated to reflect that OC192 PLS is optional.</p>	<p>No, the Government will not update the RFP to make OC-192 PLS [Optional]. SONET services have several OC192 interfaces to offer distance sensitive options to the user. UNI Type #13 is the mandatory SONET services interface that is parallel to the PLS requirement.</p>

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885	Both	B.4.2	Background: Section B.4.2 states: ". . . No contractor pricing for a SED will be considered by the Government, either during the procurement or during an addition to the contract by the modification process, unless the price is less than the manufacturer's price . . ." Wireless contractors do not establish SED pricing as a discount to an "Official Manufacturer's List Price," but use commercial pricing methods instead. Section B.4.8.1 states: "SED prices shall be composed of some or all of the following elements: A charge for the SED. The charge shall be a one-time charge . . . or may be a monthly charge for a defined term (the Device Monthly Recurring Charge or DMRC) (See Section B.4.8.2). The DNRC shall be determined by a fixed discount from the manufacturer's official list price." Comment: Recommend that this Section B.4.2 statement be revised to include non-wireless SEDs only.	Wireless SEDs will continue to be subject to the provisions in Section B.4.2.
886	Both	C.1.3	At what interval after award will the contractor be required to update its service coverage to remain current with its commercial coverage?	No specific interval has been specified. The requirement is for the offeror to update its service coverage by contract modification to remain current with its commercial coverage.
887	Both	C.2.1.6.1.1	What is the process for identifying and reconciling differences between Network Key Performance Indicators and commercial performance parameters?	The Network Key Performance Indicators are contract requirements. If the offeror can not meet these requirements, the RFP requires the offeror to indicate that the requirement can not be met in the Attachment J.9 Cross Reference Tables, and to submit an exception or deviation.
888	Both	C.2.11.10.1.1	Please provide functional definitions for the Storage Services. They do not identify the recover time objective or recovery point objective. These are essential to define the solution components and generate suitable cost models for the service scalability.	Recovery Time Objective and Recovery Point Objective are parameters included without using these terms: "Recovery Time Objective" is included in Section C.2.11.10.4.1, Note 2 and it is referred to as "Restore Time". The "Recovery Point Objective", is included in Section C.2.11.10.1.4 (5e), and it reads "The contractor shall retain a full backup copy of a month's worth of data for at least three months, and for longer if needed by the Agency." It is worth emphasizing that this is GSA's benchmark but it is the subscribing Agency which sets the actual recovery point objective the vendor will have to comply with.
889	Both	B.2.3.1.3-2	The charging unit for the Dial-Up service is "per six-second increment." If the customer wants this capability, they should either be charged an MRC plus usage charges or an MRC with unlimited usage. Will the Government amend the RFP to add an MRC CLIN for the Dial-Up ports?	The RFP will be amended to add an optional MRC that will provide unlimited usage monthly flat rate charges.

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890	Both	B.2.4.1.3.1-2	In Table B.2.4.1.3.1-2, the charging unit for the three Analog Dial-Up CLINs is "Per six-second increment:" The standard service offer is a flat rate per month for unlimited usage or a fixed number of hours plus a charge per hour above that threshold. Will the Government consider changing the charging unit to match standard industry pricing structure?	In an upcoming amendment, the Government will change the charging unit for the Analog Dial-up IPS port CLINs, currently listed in Tables B.2.4.1.3.1-2, B.2.4.1.3.1-4, B.2.4.1.3.2-2, and B.2.4.1.3.2-4, from a "per six second increment" charging unit to a flat MRC "per port" charging unit for unlimited usage.
891			Reserved	Reserved
892	Both	B.2.7.4.3	The RFP states, "The contractor shall provide a discount on the total charge for the Tier 2 services and list the discount in Table B.2.7.4.3-3." Where can the offeror list the conditions for the discount? The table as currently provided appears to apply the discount every time. If that were the intent of the offeror, why would discounts be provided in Table B.2.7.4.3-1? The same question applies to the discount structure requested in Sections B.2.7.4.4 and B.2.7.4.5.	In accordance with RFP Section B.2.7.4.3, the Government seeks a discount for each Tier without any conditions. The same answer applies to the discount structure in Sections B.2.7.4.4 and B.2.7.4.5.
893	Enterprise	B.2.7.4.3.1	Table B.2.7.4.3.1-2 requires on-site management and monitoring as feature pricing on a per site basis. The Government should have contractors price this CLIN on an ICB basis, since site sizes will vary which will impact the required on-site contractor labor. Please revise this table to adjust for differences between sites.	In a forthcoming RFP amendment, the Government will revise Tables B.2.7.4.3.1-2, B.2.7.4.4.1-2, and B.2.7.4.5.1-2 to allow the on-site management and monitoring feature to be charged on an individual case basis (ICB).
894	Both	C.1.3	The Government states that the offeror must propose additional contract locations in accordance with Section H.13. Section H.13 refers to the protection of contract data. Does the Government mean Section J.2 should govern the addition of new service locations to the contract? If not, please clarify. Also, please change the language that states that contractor "shall provide service to any location" to "may provide service to any location", since a contractor may not offer services in the new location.	The correct reference is Attachment J.4, Guidelines for Modifications to Networx Contracts. This reference will be updated in a future amendment. The Government may request that a Networx contractor provide service to any location where service is required. The service may be provided by the prime contractor or a subcontractor, but the prime is responsible for the delivery of the service. The choice of how to provide the requested service is the contractor's business decision.

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895	Both	H.7.2	The next to the last paragraph of Provision H.7.2 (in both RFPs) requires certification of submission information by "an officer of the company" "who has the authority to bind the company." Does the GSA intend that an "officer of the company" sign when any most other submission (e.g., original proposal, contract, contract mods, etc.) are only required to be signed by an employee authorized to bind the company. This is a subtle but very important distinction. This possibly means, as an example, that the CFO, COO, CEO or Corporate President will likely have to sign the submission when the original contract may have been signed by a duly authorized Director of Contracts.	The Government will change the word "officer" to "employee" in the penultimate paragraph of Section H.7.2 in an upcoming amendment.
896	Universal	H.33	Under Section H.33, the government states that it will release first year average unit CLIN prices after award to the Networx Enterprise acquisition. Will this be for the mandatory services only or for optional services?	The government intends to release Networx Universal first year averaged unit CLIN prices for mandatory and optional services.
897	Enterprise	C.2.3.2.2.1 (7)	Please make support for Point-to-Multipoint PVCs optional, as this is not a standard industry offering.	Yes, the RFP will be revised to make C.2.3.2.2.1 (7) Point-to-Multipoint PVCs optional.
898	Both	C.2.4.1.4.1	Please clarify what is the" end-to-end" port availability.	The standard definition of Availability in the Networx RFP is defined between two points. In this case, the two end points are: The UNI at the SDP, see C.2.4.1.3.1 Network Interfaces (Networx Enterprise) & C.2.4.1.2.1 Network Interface (Networx Universal), and The contractor's port at the POP. The end-to-end port availability includes the Availability of the link connecting these two end points.
899	Enterprise	C.2.7.1.1.4	Since the Enterprise contract was developed for emerging service providers, will the Government make VLAN tag support that includes VLAN aggregation across a common physical connection optional except when this service is commercially available from the vendor?	In an upcoming amendment, Section C.2.7.1.1.4 #13(iv) will be made optional.
900	Both	C.2.7.3.1.2	Please clarify how this requirement differs from C.2.7.3.1.2 #5?	The RFP will be amended to delete item #8 in C.2.7.3.1.2, as draft-ietf-l3vpn-requirements-00.txt has been superseded by RFC 4031 published under the IETF Working Group L3VPN (item #5).
901	Enterprise	C.2.7.3.1.4	Please specify what types of dynamic requests the Government expects to be included in this requirement.	The Government will amend the RFP. Section C.2.7.3.1.4 (#20) will be amended to delete the comma before the period at the end of the sentence. In addition, the requirement will be amended to read as follows: "The contractor's network shall provide near real-time response to dynamic requests from the customer for changes to adjust allocated bandwidth".

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902	Enterprise	C.2.7.3.3	Item 201 and 202 in Table J 9.1.1.2(a) are repeating items 199 and 200.	You are correct. These two requirements (199 and 200) are inadvertently repeated in Cross Reference Table J.9.1.1.2(a).
903	Enterprise	C.2.7.3.3	In Table J 9.1.1.3(a), the requirements listed in 15-19 and 20-23 describe various access arrangements and speeds that are stipulated as being mandatory. Since the Enterprise contract was developed for emerging service providers, will the Government make these various arrangements optional except when they are commercially available from the vendor?	Access arrangements are already optional for the Networx Enterprise RFP, because they are only mandatory when they are commercially available from the vendor as defined under Section J.2.3 Access Arrangement Coverage.
904	Both	C.2.7.2.3.1	In section C.2.7.2.3.1 (Interface for Intranet and Extranet Premises-based IP VPNs), the only UNI type listed in the table is "Ethernet Access", which is an optional access method in C.2.16.2.2.1.4. Did the Government intend to mean an Ethernet interface? If not, please specify the interface.	Yes, the Government's intent is an Ethernet interface. RFP Section C.2.7.2.3.1 UNI Type 1 will be amended to require an Ethernet Interface.
905	Both	C.2.2.2.1.4.1	C.2.2.2.1.4 (1a) and C.2.2.1.1.4 (1a) require a unique directory number of all on-net Government locations. Would the Government please clarify the requirement for a directory and the accessibility required for this directory?	The clarification of the requirement under 'uniform numbering plan' is that the contractor is required to provide a unique telephone number for all on net subscribers to include using and supporting existing FTS2001 numbers. A directory of numbers is not required for this service.
906	Enterprise	C.2.7.4.3	Security service is typically implemented by hardware devices with IP/Ethernet connection and software applications. Please clarify the interface requirements in this section. We respectfully request that GSA remove those requirements or modify those requirements so that the security services can be deployed with the services listed in the section.	The Government will amend the RFP. The MTSS interfaces will be modified to be consistent with the other Security Services for Universal and Enterprise. The contents of C.2.7.4.3 Interface, C.2.7.4.3.1 Interface for Intranet and Extranet Connectivity, and C.2.7.4.3.2 Interface for Remote Access Connectivity will be amended as follows: C.2.7.4.3 Interfaces MTSS shall support the User-to-Network Interfaces (UNIs) defined in the following Sections, as applicable: C.2.3.1 Frame Relay Service (FRS) (Optional) C.2.3.2 Asynchronous Transfer Mode Service (ATMS) (Optional) C.2.4.1 Internet Protocol Services (IPS) C.2.5.1 Private Line Services (PLS) (Optional) C.2.5.2 Synchronous Optical Network Services (SONETS) (Optional) C.2.7.1 Ethernet Services (EthS) (Optional) C.2.7.2 Premises-based IP-VPN Services (PBIP-VPNS) (Optional) C.2.7.3 Network-based IP-VPN Services (NBIP VPNS) C.2.7.4.3.1 Reserved C.2.7.4.3.2 Reserved
907	Both	C.2.7.8.1.2	The RFP states "Requirement 15 Voice over Internet Protocol Transport Service shall conform to NIST Special Publication SP 800-58" Publication SP 800-58 discusses Security Considerations for Voice over IP systems. It is not a true standard but makes recommendations as to what should be taken into consideration for a VoIP network. How will the Government evaluate these recommendations in determining which contractor(s) to award this service?	The Government will amend the RFP to remove NIST SP 800-58 (Item #15) from C.2.7.8.1.2 Standards in both the Networx Universal and Networx Enterprise RFPs.

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908	Universal	B.2.4.1	Section B.2.4.1.2.1 Independent Access. "An agency may use circuits provisioned for an independent service, such as Analog Dial-Up, DSL, Cable High-Speed, Frame Relay Service (FRS), or Asynchronous Transfer Mode Service (ATMS) to access the contractor's IPS transport network. Analog Dial-Up, DSL, and Cable High-Speed are not widely used commercially as Independent Access today. We recommend that Analog Dial-Up, DSL, Cable High-Speed be purchased as Embedded Access and the CLINs for Independent Access for these access methods be removed.	In a forthcoming amendment, the Government will remove the reference to using DSL and Cable High-Speed as independent access methods to an IPS port from Section 2.4.1.2.1 (Independent Access). Also, the corresponding CLINs for DSL and Cable High Speed independent access will be removed from the pricing tables in Section B.2.4.1.3.1 and Section B.2.4.1.3.2.
909	Both	B.4	Can offerors provide general categories with specific percent-off list prices per manufacturer rather than specifically detailing part numbers? If the contractor is required to submit specific part numbers with the bid, by the time of award many of them will be obsolete.	The Government will not change its price structure for SEDs, nor remove the Mode No. column from Tables B.4.9.1-1, B.4.9.2-1, B.4.9.3-1, and B.4.9.4-1; however, the information column, entitled "Contractor's Catalog No.", in the same tables will be removed in a forthcoming amendment.
910	Both	C.2.14.6.1.4.1	Paragraph 3. Please provide details on the system design terminology "addressing (fleet mapping)". Does this refer to mobile vehicle support? If yes, what are the mobile vehicle requirements?	The term "addressing (fleet mapping)" is a term used in the Land Mobile Radio industry to identify talk groups and map each talk group to a common identifier that will be used by all devices within a trunking system. [See Section C.2.14.6.1.4.2 Implementation, requirement 3.e for trunking capabilities.] The addressing (fleet mapping) in the required system design includes but has a broader scope than "mobile vehicle support". The Agency statement of work would specify the particular "mobile vehicle requirements", if any, that the contractor will have to consider when developing the detailed system design.
911	Both	G.1.1	In Section G.1.1, the RFP states "The Government reserves the right to modify the roles and responsibilities in this clause at any time without charge to the Government." This clause should be modified to add the following clause "provided these changes to not result in the vendor being assigned additional roles or responsibilities that are currently the responsibility of the Government."	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
912	Both	G.4.2	Will each agency select either the Universal contract, the Enterprise contract, or both contracts when conducting fair consideration for their follow-on requirements after making their initial contractor award? Are only those prime contractors on the agency-selected contract eligible for fair consideration? (For example, if an agency selects the Enterprise contract as their vehicle, will the prime contractors on Universal be unable to bid for those requirements, and will the inverse be true as well)?	Based on their requirements, Agencies will choose between Networx Universal and Networx Enterprise, selecting the acquisition that best meets those requirements. Agencies will then conduct the fair opportunity process choosing between the contractors in the particular acquisition that the Agency has previously selected.
913	Both	I	Since no cost or pricing data is to be submitted (See Clause L.4, FAR 52.215-20(a)), these Clauses need to be deleted from the RFP.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

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914	Enterprise	M.6.1	The RFP states, "The ratings are: Acceptable – for the technical and management, the option service complies with the Government's mandatory requirements in all areas while presenting acceptable risk." For optional services, can the offeror bid only the CLINs that it offers commercially or does the Government require that every mandatory CLIN for a service need to be bid? (This will provide the Government with more competition and a greater range of offers.)	If an offeror proposes an optional service, it must include pricing for every CLIN that is shown as Mandatory for that service. If the CLIN is shown as "Mandatory, where commercially available," the offeror is not required to price it if the offeror does not offer it commercially.
915	Both	J.12.4	In order to facilitate billing, we would like to propose the following deletions and additions to the billing elements: Product - Voice Billing Data Element - Orig Serv Wire Center Recommended Action - DELETE Comments - Call detail includes the originating number when provided. Product - Voice Billing Data Element - Term Serv Wire Center Recommended Action - DELETE Comments - Call detail reflects the terminating number. Product - Content Delivery Billing Data Element - MRC Recommended Action - ADD Comments - CLIN tables allow for monthly charges Product - Audio Conferencing Billing Data Element - MRC Recommended Action - ADD Comments - Pricing tables allow for monthly charges Product - Audio Conferencing Billing Data Element - SEDs Description Recommended Action - ADD Comments - Audio conferencing has requirements for SEDs. Will GSA consider the proposed revisions?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP. Any vendor may provide additional elements it considers relevant or beneficial.
916	Both	B.2.14.6.2-2	Would GSA please provide detailed requirements for Standard Encryption and Advanced Encryption within the Technical section and change CLINs 0659030 and 0659031 to ICB?	The Government will amend the RFP, but will not make the CLINs ICB. In Section C.2.14.6.2.1 Land Mobile Radio Service Features ID #1 Standard Encryption, and ID#2 Advanced Encryption will be deleted, and the corresponding Section B.2.14.6.2-2 CLINs 06059030 and 0659031 will be deleted in an upcoming RFP amendment. Also, in Section C.2.14.6.1.1 the following sentence "An Agency may use end-to-end encrypted communications over the contractor's wireless network" will be added at the end of the first paragraph. Note: SEDs for LMRS are to be provided pursuant to RFP Section B.4.

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917	Both	B.2.2.1.1.1	There is no reference to the Payphone surcharge for Voice Services (VS). Will GSA add a payphone surcharge for use with VS Calling Cards, similar to the Payphone surcharge in Table B.2.2.3.3-3 for Toll Free service (or allow this table to apply to VS Calling Card calls also)?	The Government will add the wording "Payphone add-on applies to calls made from payphones. See Section B.2.2.3.3.1 for pricing" to the "Notes" column in Table B.2.2.1.4-3 for Authorization Code/Calling Cards feature.
918	Universal	B.2.5.1.3-2	Table B.2.5.1.3-2 CLIN 138003 "7.5 kHz Audio" in Table B.2.5.1.3-2 is identified as an optional service, which contradicts what is stated in Table C.2.5.1.2.1, Private Line Service Features, where it is identified as a mandatory service. We recommend that CLIN 138003 in Table B.2.5.1.3-2 be identified as an optional feature in both tables to avoid confusing bidders. Will GSA agree to change the feature "7.5 kHz Audio" in Table C.2.5.1.2.1 to be an optional feature as it is identified in CLIN 138003 in Table B.2.5.1.3-2?	No, the feature will be changed in a forthcoming amendment to mandatory to agree with Section C. The feature is required for continuity of service.
919	Both	B.2.3.2.3-8	Will GSA make transport pricing for 600 to 2500 Mbps service optional? These service rates are only supported on OC-48 port speeds, optional in Section C.2.3.2.3.1 and Tables B.2.3.2.3-2,4,6.	Yes, the Government will amend the RFP to make 600 to 2500 Mbps service optional.
920	Both	B.2.10.6.3.2	For Price tables B.2.10.6.3.2-2, the Token Based Management pricing requires pricing based on number of users. The bottom tier requires pricing for over 10,000 users. We recommend that the Government add a cap on the maximum number of users in order to bound the associated licensing, hardware & operational expenses which would be incorporated into the pricing. Would GSA be agreeable to establishing an upper limit on the requirement?	The pricing mechanism has been changed to "per user" so cap is no longer needed.
921	Both	B.4.8.7	The RFP includes an AOW price adjustment factor for DNRC and DMRC at locations outside the Continental U.S. (CONUS); however, there are no adjustment factors for NRC (installation or upgrades) or Maintenance MRC (MMRC) charges. We recommend that the Government allow for an AOW price adjustment factor for NRC and MMRC for locations outside CONUS so that contractors are able to price competitively in all regions of the World. Will GSA allow for a price adjustment factor for NRC and MMRC for locations outside CONUS?	The price table structure in the RFP already permits the application of different MMRC and NRC price levels for the same DNRC/ DMRC. The MMRC and NRC price levels for the same SED CLIN may vary by CONUS, OCONUS areas, and by non-domestic Area of the World (AOW).

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922	Both	B.6.2	The RFP requires Domestic and Non-Domestic Pricing for Contractor Provided Supplemental Training in Pricing Table B.6.2-2. Domestic training should be broken down by CONUS and OCONUS and Non-Domestic training should be priced as ICB. We recommend that the Government change pricing requirements for Contractor Provided Training. This will allow the Government customers more realistic pricing according to their respective locations. In addition, it allows the bidders to recoup any variances in cost between the various region/locations. Will GSA change the pricing requirements for Contractor Provided Training?	The Government will amend the RFP to accommodate this request.
923	Both	B.4.8.1.1	This section requires that "the manufacturer's list price information shall be provided in U.S. dollars and shall not be differentiated by geographic location." However, contractors do not necessarily have the ability to insure that manufacturer's list prices are not differentiated by geographic location. In fact, many vendors do differentiate by geographic locations within CONUS and OCONUS. Will the government consider revising the RFP to permit contractors to differentiate SED prices by geographic location within CONUS and OCONUS where the SED manufacturer varies its list price by geographic location within CONUS and OCONUS?	Section B.4.8.7 permits a SED's DNRC and DMRCs to vary by Area of the World (AOW), and the AOWs are generally defined in Table B.4.8.7-1. Table B.4.8.7-1 predefines the price adjustment factor for CONUS and OCONUS to be the same, i.e., "1.0". The RFP will be amended to permit contractor-defined AOW Price Adjustment Factors for OCONUS areas. The price structure in the RFP already permits the MMRC and NRCs associated with a particular DNRC to vary by CONUS and OCONUS areas.
924	Both	B.4.8.1.1	There appear to be two contradictory statements. In the second sentence, the RFP language prohibits contractor from differentiating by geographic location. In the third sentence, the contractor is permitted to vary the prices for OCONUS and Non-Domestic locations by a Price Adjustment Factor. Please clarify that: (1) Non-Domestic Locations refer to any locations outside of CONUS and OCONUS. (2) A contractor may, by showing a differing Price Adjustment Factor, offer an SED at one price in CONUS, different prices in the various OCONUS areas and different prices in the various non-domestic locations.	Section B.4.8.1.1 states that the "manufacturer's list price information" for a SED shall not be differentiated by geographic location. Section B.4.8.7 permits a SED's DNRC and DMRCs to vary by Area of the World (AOW), and the AOWs are generally defined in Table B.4.8.7-1. DNRCs and DMRCs are based on manufacturer's list price information, but are not manufacturer's list price information. (1) The terms Domestic, Non-Domestic, CONUS and OCONUS are clearly defined in Section J.11. (2) The RFP is being amended to permit contractor-defined AOW Price Adjustment Factors for the OCONUS areas. With this amendment, the contractor will be permitted to offer a SED at one price in CONUS, a different price in each of the two OCONUS areas, and a different price in each of the non-domestic AOWs.
925	Both	B.4.9.1-1	Start Date and Stop Date are required by contractor in order to maintain the historical data for the Manufacturer List Price. Table B.4.9.1-1, 1-2, 1-3 requests only the Replaced Date. Will GSA include Start Date and Stop Date in the Tables, as well?	GSA will add Start and Stop Dates to the first three tables in Sub-sections B.4.9.1, B.4.9.2, B.4.9.3 and B.4.9.4 of Section B.4 in order to permit contractors to better maintain the historical data for the Manufacturers List Prices and contractor's device class information. However, this change will be footnoted to make clear that, initially, the Start Date for these tables is the award date of the contract and the Stop Date is the projected end date of the contract. Changes to the Start and Stop Dates will only reflect changes caused by contract modifications made to add, delete, or modify SEDs List Price or Device Class information.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
926	Both	C.2.1.3.1	This requirement states: "...contractor shall order wiring/cabling from the Agency's designated provider." Does this imply a contractual relationship between contractor and the Agency's designated provider, or will order/payment be handled via an existing support agreement or purchase order between Agency and wiring provider?	As stated in Section C.2.1.3.1 Premises Wiring/Cabling, the agency will provide the appropriate authority. The authority might be a Letter of Agency or other document authorizing the contractor to act in the agency's behalf subject to the limitations described in the letter.
927	Both	C.2.3.1.4.1	The RFP requires latency of 70ms round-trip for CONUS critical FRS services. Latency is mostly dominated by the propagation delay, and increases with distance. From Seattle, WA to Miami, FL (CONUS), the best route propagation delay will be on the order of 80ms round trip and other delays such as transmission time, queuing delays and switching delays will be added to provide latency. It is expected that latency for FRS will be on the order of a maximum of 90ms anywhere to anywhere in the CONUS. Queuing delays can be controlled by COS. It does not contribute 50ms (120ms -70ms). Will GSA examine the Latency requirement for critical services so that it can be modified to an achievable 90ms?	The RFP will be revised from 70 msec to 90 msec for CONUS critical FRS services.
928	Both	C.2.4.1.2	The RFP states that "Figure C.2.4.1.2-1 illustrates several possible arrangements for connecting Agency LANs and routers at a customer site to the contractor's point of presence (POP) for IPS. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of scenarios and should not be construed as a limit on the scenarios or arrangements available under the contract." It is unclear if the Contractor is fully compliant with the RFP requirements if the Contractor proposes solutions that comply with the interface scenarios (1-4) in the RFP. Therefore, it is recommended that bidders proposing solutions for the four interface scenarios be fully compliant with the RFP; and that other solutions will be developed for Agency-specific requirements as needed following contract award. Would GSA agree that if the Contractor's proposal includes a solution for each of the four interface scenarios in the RFP, then this would be considered fully compliant with the RFP interface requirements?	No, the network interfaces are specified in C.2.4.1.2.2 User-to-Network Interface for IPS. The contractor must meet these requirements to be fully compliant. The four interface scenarios are illustrative examples and the contractor is not required to provide solutions for these. Paragraph C.2.4.1.3 Interfaces and the corresponding diagram Figure 2.4.1.3-1 Possible IPS SDP Locations will be deleted from Universal and Enterprise to avoid continued confusion.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
929	Both	C.2.4.1.2.1	The RFP states that "The User-to-Network-Interfaces (UNI) at the SDP, as defined in Section C.2.4.1.3.2, for the provisioning of IPS are mandatory, when commercially available from the contractor, unless marked optional." Some of the mandatory UNIs specified are not commercially available. A. Will GSA clarify how mandatory UNIs that are not commercially available should be addressed in their corresponding pricing table in Section B.? B. Will GSA be agreeable to allowing bidders to mark CLINs as NCA (Not Commercially Available) in the corresponding CLIN Price column for mandatory UNIs that are not commercially available? C. Also, because it appears to refer to the table incorrectly, will GSA revise the reference from C.2.4.1.3.2 to C.2.4.1.2.2?	A: The Government will amend the RFP to clarify which UNIs are strictly mandatory and which UNIs are only required to bid when commercially available from bidders. In an upcoming amendment, the Government will label each UNI in the latter category with a note stating "when commercially available" in Section C.2.4.1.2.2. Thus, the bidders would not be required to offer these UNIs to all Government locations identified in Universal Traffic Set. The bidders are still required to price all the ports corresponding to all UNIs in Section B.2.4.1.3.1 and Section B.2.4.1.3.2. B: The Government has developed a flexible price structure that does not require a NCA pricing element. The offerors do not have to enter anything other than numeric prices in the tables to adequately price the services. C. The section number in Section C was in error and will be amended to read C.2.4.1.3.2.
930	Both	C.2.5.1.1.4	The RFP requires channelized T1, T3, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 services, however, it is not clear whether the Government expect vendors to provide required multiplexers to support the lower level channels specified for each service, or just the capability to support the channelized services. A. Because channelized interfaces can be provided by using multiplexers, will GSA agree to include multiplexers with aggregate channels to provide the required channelized interfaces? B. Will GSA clarify that for all channelized services, vendors must provide multiplexers that can support the lower level channels and not just the capability to carry the channelized services.	A: The use of multiplexers with aggregate channels to provide the required channelized interfaces is allowed as part of a SED solution as defined in RFP Sections B.4 and J.5. B: For all channelized services, provisioning of multiplexers that can support the lower level channels and not just the capability to carry the channelized services is also allowed as part of a SED solution as defined in RFP Sections B.4 and J.5.
931	Both	C.2.7.3.1.4	Reference 9.d. The RFP mandates that "The contractor shall support QoS across a subset of the access networks as listed below, when commercially available: d. MPLS-based access" It is unclear what is meant by MPLS-based access. Does GSA mean that MPLS is extended to the CE, as in the case of Carriers' documented in draft VPN standard draft-ietf-l3vpn-rfc2547bis-03.txt?	Reference 9.d. MPLS-based access is cited in RFC 3809 - Generic Requirements for Provider Provisioned Virtual Private Networks (PPVPN), section 4.8. Quality of Service. No, that is not the Government's intent.
932	Both	C.2.10.1.1.1	The RFP includes a feature called "personal firewalls" Personal firewalls are a separate technology involved in "end-point security" and are not a feature of network firewalls. We recommend that bidders be asked to propose a managed "end-point security" solution which would include personal firewalls, host anti-virus, policy compliance and host IPS. Will GSA modify the associated Table B pricing tables to allow for optional MRC and NRC CLINs for managed end point security?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
933	Both	C.2.11.10.1.4 .3.a & b	The RFP mandates that "The contractor shall: Provide tools for Agency use to manage the storage provided, including but not limited to logical partitioning of allocated storage for Agency needs, applying Agency storage policy management, and providing storage virtualization as needed by the Agency. Support the Agency's investments in storage resources by being compatible with Agency storage management policies, procedures, and tools, as needed by the Agency, including but not limited to storage virtualization across Agency and contractor-provided storage. . Will GSA provide detailed definitions for storage management policies, procedures, and tools that will be required?	No, GSA will not specify detailed definitions for storage management policies, procedures and tools because detailed requirements will be specified by subscribing Agencies. GSA expects offerors to describe the resource management tools available to subscribing Agencies when purchasing basic managed storage services as specified in Section C.2.11.10. Requirements for management tools above and beyond that offered with the basic service will be negotiated with individual agencies under customized storage services according to Section B.2.11.10. For clarification, the Government will amend the RFP and modify requirements number 3 (a) and (b) in Section C.2.11.10.1.4 as follows: "3. Storage resources management: a. The contractor shall provide management tools to the subscribing Agency which support basic storage services. b. If required by the Agency, the contractor shall support the Agency's investments in storage resources by customizing the service to allow compatibility with Agency storage management policies, procedures, and tools."
934	Universal	C.2.15.1.1.4	The requested modem data rates are available, but are not offered via all four requested mobile satellite systems. Will GSA please include the clause, "where commercially available on appropriate systems"?	The RFP will be modified to include the clause, "where commercially available on appropriate systems" in Sections C.2.15.1.1.4 (item # 4) and C.2.15.1.2.1 (ID # 1).
935	Both	C.2.2.1.4.1	Will GSA create a single performance standard for Grade of Service of P.01? Will GSA eliminate classification of SDP to SDP and POP to POP? Grade of service only applies to on-net performance and is a networked-based measurement. The only difference between SDP to SDP and POP to POP is the access facilities. No calls will be dropped on the access facilities. The contractor has no control over the performance of off-net services or agency's PBX.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
936	Both	C.2.9.1.1.4.2	Will GSA revise the "real-time" access requirement Installation Schedules and Status (12 a) to "near real-time"? Installation activities are updated within a reasonable timeframe in the installation tracking database.	The Government will amend the RFP to revise the "real-time" requirement to "near real-time" for item 12 (a).

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
937	Both	C.3.3.1.2.2	The Government "retains the right to have the contractor reschedule [any scheduled (non-emergency) network configuration change or planned maintenance activity] with 5 business days' prior notice. (a) Does "Government" refer to GSA or to any Agency or Authorized User receiving services under the contract? (b) Allowing the Government, be it GSA or any Authorized User, to retain this right potentially hampers the contractor's ability to provide quality services to all customers across its service delivery platforms. Please consider revising this section such that the Government's right to reschedule the network configuration change or planned maintenance activity exists only when the change or activity impacts only Government customers served under this contract vehicle.	The Government includes GSA and any Agency that is a user of Networx services. The Government requires the ability to plan and prepare for changes that may impact its operation and services to citizens and is sensitive to the business impacts of its requirements on the way our industry partners deliver services to all their customers. Therefore GSA will modify section C.3.3.1.2.2, ID# 2.1 of the RFP to read as follows: "The contractor shall notify the PMO and affected Agencies at least 10 business days prior to a scheduled (non-emergency) network configuration change or planned maintenance activity as described in items 1 and 2 above. The Government retains the right to have the contractor reschedule with 5 business days' prior notice when the change or activity impacts only Government customers served under this contract; for changes or activities that impact other customers as well, the contractor shall make best efforts to accommodate the Government's request to reschedule."
938	Both	C.3.4.5	Please confirm that Service Optimization only applies to Agencies, and not as between all Authorized Users, including Agencies and other entities.	Optimization applies to all authorized users of the Networx contract, including those in Appendices B.1 and C.1 of GSA Order ADM4800.2E
939	Both	C.2.7.4.4.1	RFP performance metrics identify NSA Type 1 encryption as having a standard performance of 100 percent. A more realistic metric would be to make the requirement consistent with the performance capabilities of the actual encryption device that is being provided to the agency. Will GSA modify the RFP to reflect a performance standard that reflects that actual encryption device being provided to the agency?	The Government will amend the RFP. The Government will amend Section C.2.7.4.4.1 Performance Metrics for MTSS, KPI for NSA Type 1 Encryption will be revised to 99.99%.
940	Universal	C.2.16.2.2.1.4	The section indicates that at least one of the broadband methods is mandatory, but in many remote locations none of the four methods are available. If a bidder can provide dedicated access in a scenario where none of the four broadband access methods is commercially available, will GSA consider the bidder to be fully compliant in those areas ?	Based on the the geographic requirements for BBAA as defined in J.2.3.1.2 for compliance with the RFP: For domestic locations: No, since DSL is required in serving wire centers where dedicated wireline access is available. For Non domestic locations: Yes, since the requirement is 'where it is available commercially from the contractor'.
941	Universal	C.2.16.2.2.1.4	The RFP requires Mandatory DSL service in all instances in accordance with specific site connectivity as required in C.2.16.2.2.1.3. However, there are geographic limitations to using DSL in certain areas. So, while the SWC may be fully compliant (with all service levels requested), an individual within the SWC may not be technically capable of using DSL. Will GSA allow the contractor to be in compliance if certain individual sites cannot be serviced by DSL due to geographic constraints, as long as alternative access arrangements through the SWC are available?	The geographic coverage for BBAA (DSL), listed by Serving Wire Center (SWC), is specified in Attachment J.2.3.1.2.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
942	Both	C.2.4.1.2	a.) Can you define specific FTP Security Extensions that we must comply with? b.) Can you be more specific on CDNS specific Internet Engineering Task Force - RFC documents/standards that we must comply with?	A: The Government will amend C.2.4.6.1.2 to remove reference to "FTP - Security Extensions". B: Content Delivery Network Services must comply with the prevailing standards used in the public Internet, allowing citizens and industry to readily access Government content.
943	Both	C.2.4.6	The RFP requirements address basic CDNS capabilities. This Offeror respectfully suggests GSA consider evaluation of advanced capabilities above and beyond those presented in this section, to evaluate a providers more advanced capabilities – i.e. dynamic content delivery, enhanced security, edgecomputing, advanced caching capabilities. This could be presented an optional and/or advanced capabilities section that allows CDNS vendors to fully describe their capabilities and the added value that they can provide. Your help in clarifying these areas is greatly appreciated.	Offerors may offer capabilities above the Government's requirements if those capabilities are included in the prices offered.
944	Both	H.15	This clause states that if any material or adverse ruling, order, or determination of a governmental regulatory body affects the contractor's ability to offer services under the terms and condition of this contract, the contractor shall immediately develop a proposal that provides comparable services to GSA at rates equal to or less that those set forth in the contract. If a material or adverse regulatory change increases the cost to the contractor to provide the same level of service to GSA, will GSA allow the contractor to recover those costs?	No.
945	Both	B.2.2.1.1.1	An "additional add-on charge shall apply to certain nondomestic telephone calls that terminate to a mobile phone or other wireless devices." Please clarify whether this add-on charge is to be based on the wireless termination charges imposed by the specific terminating carrier (and therefore, subject to variation). Also, please clarify whether Tables B.2.2.1.3-11 and Table B.2.2.1.3-12 are to be updated (and if so, how often) to reflect changes in the rates, or the new imposition of or discontinuance of wireless termination charges.	The mobile termination add-on charge is a fixed-price charge that is broadly intended to recover charges imposed by the terminating carriers of the calls made. It is not a pass-through nor subject to variation with changes in the terminating carriers' charges. Please see Sections B.1.2 and B.1.3 for the duration that prices are valid. The mobile termination add-on charge does not have separate criteria that differs from Section B.1.2 and Section B.1.3.

Questions and Answers for Network Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
946	Both	B.2.5.3.2	This section refers to an "IRU" for use of the fiber. "IRU" connotes specific types of interests in dark fiber, which may not be consistent with the interest the Government will receive in obtaining DFS. In addition, the defined term refers to interests in international cable, while DFS will normally be provided domestically. It is suggested that the phrase "the IRU for the use of the fiber" be replaced with "the right to use the fiber." Clarification may allow contractors to make additional dark fiber routes available, e.g., when a contractor is subject to contractual restrictions that prohibit the granting of an IRU but allow the leasing of dark fiber. In any case, C.2.5.3.1.1 provides that "DFS . . . will allow the Agency . . . the unconditional right to use" fibers or cable, which more precisely describes the interests the Government will receive.	It is GSA's intention to negotiate unconditional Dark Fiber global acquisitions for subscribing Agencies. Section C.2.5.3 states GSA's intention clearly. The pricing of DFS is well defined in Section B.2.5.3. The term IRU is a widely used industry term that reflects GSA's intent to acquire Dark Fiber globally, not only domestically.
947	Both	C.2.5.2.1.4 (4a)	Is the government's 1:N protection requirement in reference to card protection?	Yes. RFP Section C.2.5.2.1.4 Requirement (4a) refers to card protection on the tributary side of a SONET Network Element.
948	Both	I.1.48	We do not believe the intent of FTS Networkx is to deliver to the Government any computer software or technical data, as defined in FAR 52.227-14. We anticipate that data and software that is used, as defined by the FAR, is owned by the contractor and/or its suppliers and was developed exclusively at private expense. If, during the contract life cycle, it is determined that data, as defined in FAR 52.227-14, is required to be added to the contract through modification, then the rights to any such data should be subject to negotiations between the parties. This is consistent with federal procurement policies. Will GSA remove this provision?	Software and data created may be Government property and programs created specifically at the Government's request and paid for by the Government may be subject to the FAR requirements. As such, the RFP accurately reflects the Government's requirements and will not be amended.
949	Both	I.9	Since Networkx is a fixed price contract for commercial services, there is no need for an audit of this broad scope. The contractor should agree to allow an audit to verify the accuracy of the invoices submitted. When acquiring fixed price, commercial services, the right to conduct audit of a contractor's costs would be inappropriate and costly. Will GSA remove this provision?	No, Networkx Universal and Networkx Enterprise are being conducted as FAR Part 15 acquisitions. As such, the referenced clause, Examination of Records by GSA, (GSAR 552.215-70) is a required clause and will not be deleted from the RFP.
950	Both	J.11 & C.2.1.2	It is standard industry practice to include Guam, CNMI and American Samoa in the non-domestic definition for every service except voice calling from the US? In order to minimize support system impacts, would GSA consider this modification?	No, the Government requires all U.S. territories and possessions to be considered domestic for all services.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
951	Enterprise	C.2.7.2.1.4	items 5 and 6 Please clarify if the contractor is required to provide the access in addition to supporting it from a service perspective. If the contractor is not required to provide access as outlined in item 5, why is the contractor required to provide dial services in item 6, particularly when the dial services listed in table C.2.7.2.3.2 only have to provided when commercially available? Please consider rewording item 6 to reflect that dial service is mandatory only when commercially available.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. Per Attachment J.2.3 Access Arrangement Coverage, the contractor is required to provide the access in addition to supporting it from a service perspective, when commercially available. Access coverage is not mandatory if it is not commercially available. The stated requirement represents the Government's service needs. The offeror may define an Exception or Deviation to these requirements in their proposal and/or negotiate these requirements with the using Agency when ordering the service. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
952	Enterprise	C.2.7.3.1.4	items 11 and 12 Please clarify if the contractor is required to provide the access in addition to supporting it from a service perspective. If the contractor is not required to provide the access and the access may be acquired directly by the customer under a separate task order, it will be difficult for the contractor to guarantee an end-to-end SLA, as required in table C.2.7.3.4.1, as the contractor will have no contractual relationship with the access provider.	Based on Attachment J.2.3 Access Arrangement Coverage, yes, the contractor is required to provide the access in addition to supporting it from a service perspective, when commercially available. Access coverage is not mandatory if it is not commercially available. Regarding the end-to-end SLA issue, based on Section C.2.1.6.2 Special Performance Requirements for Telecommunications, Special and Wireless Services, "The end points of the contractor's responsibility for performance will vary based on whether access arrangements are being provided by the contractor or by the Agency".
953	Both	J.2.1	Will GSA remove Layer 2 VPN (j) and Converged IP (k) from list of mandatory services that must be provided at each SWC listing in the Networx Hosting Center? Both of these services are new services (not Legacy Services) that Carriers have not deployed across their networks.	The Government will amend the RFPs to require L2VPNS and CIPS to be available where (i) required to satisfy the traffic model and (ii) commercially available from the contractor.
954	Both	J.2.2-1	North Korea and Iran are listed as required service coverage points for Calling Card origination and Inbound Toll Free. Please confirm that both countries should be included as service coverage points for Calling Card origination and Inbound Toll Free?	In a forthcoming amendment, the Government will delete North Korea and Iran from the Calling Card origination and Inbound Toll Free requirements.
955	Universal	J.2.4	The text that appears is identical to J.2.3.3, Special Service Coverage. Will Government change this text to a Wireless Service Coverage text description?	The referenced text will be deleted in a upcoming amendment. Wireless coverage requirements are defined individually for each wireless service in Attachments J.2.4.1 through J.2.4.4.
956	Both	F.2	F-2, Item 67, 68 In the column titled "Deliverable Item Description Reference" for item 67, does the Government intend the reference to be to C.3.6.3.3.4.1.4 rather than C.3.6.3.3.4.2?	Item 68 is correct as written. For item 67, the Government will amend the RFP to change the Deliverable Item Description Reference to "C.3.6.3.3.4.1."

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
957	Both	F.2	F-2, Item 60 What is the purpose of the Contractor Notification of Pending Delivery of Invoice, Detail Billing and Adjustment Files deliverable? Why does the Government need notification one day prior to issuance of the first invoice and thereafter each month on the calendar day following issuance of the invoice? This may be a deliverable that had value when contractors delivered their invoices in paper format by mail, but should not be required when invoices are sent electronically as required by this solicitation. It is requested that this deliverable be deleted.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
958	Both	G.1.1.1	In the discussion of the Agency's Role, there is no delineation as to how a Contractor obtains assistance from the Agency in coercing other Agency contractors to perform their contractual duties under other contracts. Inasmuch as no privity of contract, or the lack of any legal relationship between the two parties required to enforce legal rights, exists between the Contractor and such other Agency contractors, the Contractor has no leverage to ensure compliance. Can you please either add that as a requirement for the Agency or one of the Agency's designated representatives?	It is the Government's responsibility to ensure contract performance unless there is a Letter of Agency. As such the proper course of action would be to notify the Agency responsible for the other contract about the performance problems. It is inappropriate for GSA to require specific action between an Agency and a non-GSA contractor.
959	Both	G.4.1	Section G.4.1 bars Government from synopsisizing orders or advising all contractors of all orders placed. How will a contractor be able to ascertain whether a proposal submitted in response to a task order actually resulted in an order placed for that task order? Wouldn't disclosure of all orders to all contractors increase the competition under task orders for this solicitation by providing feedback that could be used by contractors in framing future offers to subsequent task orders? Please change this procedure to provide for the disclosure of all orders to all Networx contractors.	RFP Section G.4.1 states: " The Government may not synopsisize orders or advise all contractors of all orders placed." The clause does not bar the Government from providing notice to the contractors after a fair opportunity process is completed, rather the Government is not under any obligation to do so. Requiring the Government to provide such notice for every order would place an onerous burden on the Government and be inefficient for both the Government and the contractors.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
960	Both	G.4.2	Under the described fair opportunity process, an Agency may use two alternative bases for order placement, total price or cost alone, or some combination of technical, past performance and price or cost. However, it is not clear if such bases must be disclosed when the task order is issued. Disclosure of such bases at task order issuance would enhance competition by placing all vendors on an equal footing as to how their offers will be evaluated. Furthermore, if the Agency can choose after-the-fact which basis it will employ, there is a substantial possibility that using the non-price or cost based decision will favor incumbent suppliers who may have more specific past performance experience with the Agency. To maximize competition for task orders, it is suggested that this provision be modified to include a requirement that the basis for award be specified in the task order and that any objection to the stated basis may be submitted to the GSA ombudsman for review to ensure that untoward favoritism to incumbent suppliers can be prevented.	The Government is not obligated to disclose its proposal evaluation methodology in the Statement of Work (SOW) as defined in Section G.4.5, though some may choose to provide such information with the SOW. The Agencies are best suited to determine whether to disclose the evaluation methodology on a case by case basis. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
961	Both	G.4.4	This section contemplates the availability of an order ombudsman within GSA to hear Contractor complaints regarding the administration of the fair opportunity process. However, the ombudsman lacks any authority to redress legitimate complaints because he/she may not overturn ordering decisions or adjudicate formal contract disputes. Without any power to provide relief, this ombudsman is of no real value to the prospective contractors seeking to unseat incumbent contractors. Please consider modifying this section to provide some authority to provide real remedies for abuses of the process.	The role of the appointed GSA ombudsman is to review and investigate complaints regarding the fair opportunity process. The GSA Contracting Officer maintains contractual authority unless otherwise delegated in writing to an Administrative Contracting Officer. The glossary of terms in Attachment J.11 furnishes the FAR's definition of a Contracting Officer, and it says the Contracting Officer signs contracts on behalf of the Government and bears legal responsibility for each contract. The Contracting Officer, alone, can enter into, terminate, or change a contractual commitment on behalf of the Government. Therefore no action is required.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
962	Both	G.5.3.3	In this section, it is contemplated that GSA will set the Management Service Fee for the contractor. Can you please confirm that all contractors under the Networx Enterprise contract will have the same level of Management Service Fee? If this is not contemplated, all vendors will not face equal opportunities for government business. Can you also confirm that the Management Service Fee for all contractors on the Networx Universal contract will be at the same level as those for the Networx Enterprise contracts? Because government agencies will choose which solicitation under which to place their task orders, if one contract has lower Management Service Fees than the other, the opportunities for the contracts with the higher fees will be diminished just by virtue of the fee. To equalize the opportunities of all contractors under the two Networx contracts, it is requested that the level of the Management Service Fee for all contractors be set at equal levels in both the Networx Enterprise and Networx Universal RFPs and those RFPs be changed accordingly.	It is the Government's intention that the same level of Management Service Fee apply to the Networx Universal and Networx Enterprise acquisitions
963	Both	H.7.1	Please clarify whether the requirement that the contractor provide access line prices for the commercial contracts to be used for comparison means that it must provide (a) the prices for access services it provides under the commercial contract, (b) the prices the commercial customer pays for access services relevant to the commercial contract (whether or not it obtains such access services pursuant to the commercial contract), or (c) the prices the contractor pays for access used to provide service under the commercial contract. If (b) is the case, the commercial customer obtains such access services directly, and the contractor does not have access pricing information, may the contractor satisfy that requirement by reference to the public tariffs or price lists of the incumbent local exchange carrier? If (c) is the case, may the contractor use any reasonable methodology for allocating costs of shared access services that it purchases?	The Government in Section H.7.2 is requiring the submission of dedicated access line prices that customers of comparison contracts are paying to the contractor.
964	Both	H.15	Cases have held that the states may not regulate prices of services provided to the Government unless the Government contract or applicable regulations defer to state regulatory authority. To ensure that the Government receives the lowest rates and to minimize the regulatory and compliance burdens on the contractor, it is requested that the following be added to H.15: "e. Nothing in this Section H.15 shall be construed as ceding to any state the right to regulate the rates of services provided under this contract."	The Government has reviewed the proposed language and determined that the existing language is sufficient. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
965	Both	H.17	This clause imposes the obligation on the contractor to "provide full cooperation, including but not limited to, full access to relevant portions of the Networx contracts, all requested reports, data and other information regarding the Government's service" to other involved vendors. To ensure equal cooperation from such vendors to the Networx contractor, the following should be added to this clause. "The Government acknowledges its responsibility to ensure that such other Government contractors provide the same cooperation to the contractor and the Contracting Officer will be charged with taking whatever steps are necessary to ensure such cooperation up to and including compensation for contractor resources expended to obtain such cooperation."	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
966	Both	I.1.51	Clause No. 52.227-22 (the correct title is entitled "Major System—Minimum Rights", not "Reserved" as stated in I.1.51). This FAR clause is inapplicable to solicitations for commercial items and it is requested that it should be deleted.	Section I.1.51 will be revised in an upcoming amendment to replace "52.227-22" with "Reserved."
967	Both	L.4(c)	In this section, the RFP indicates that instructions for submitting Information Other Than Cost or Pricing Data will be "provided in the Final RFP." Is another version of the RFP contemplated? If not, when will this information be provided?	The Government will amend the RFP to state that the format will be provided if such information is requested. This will be done in an upcoming amendment.
968	Universal	C.3.6	Are all services billed for an agency entity under one AHC?	The services are billed for an agency entity under the AHC structure the agency defines. There can be multiple AHCs.
969	Both	C.3.6	If an agency entity switches from centralized to direct billing, or vice-versa, is there any change in the AHC?	Such a change is possible but not necessary. Agencies define AHCs and can change them at any time for any reason, whether using centralized or direct billing.
970	Both	L.34.3.3	Should L.34.3.3 Past Performance Transition References paragraph 1 "...references provided in Section L.34.3.1" be replaced by "...references provided in Section L.34.3.2"? Additionally, in the same paragraph should "... (a) through (l) for each reference" be replaced by "... (d) (1) through (13) for each reference."? Please clarify.	Yes. The Government will amend the RFP to correct the references.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
971	Both	B	Our firm's current CLIN structure has been created for PO Line Items to meet the needs of the new DOD initiative for electronic invoicing: Would identified rate plan codes, Equipment Kit Codes, Accessory Product #s, Feature Codes suffice for the UBI?	Section C.3.5 states, "The purpose of a UBI is to uniquely identify a single service and all components of that service separately from all other services being provided...The contractor must provide a [UBI] to identify each billed record." Furthermore, Section C.3.5.1.2.1.1 goes on to clarify that the "UBI...uniquely identifies the combination of...[1] service type; [2] service location; and [3] Agency to which the service belongs." Therefore, all charges, equipment, and taxes for a service would have the same UBI as the service itself. In the example given in the question, the contractor must provide a UBI for the service and associate that UBI with all the CLINs that are components of that service, not provide a different UBI for each CLIN that is a component.
972	Enterprise	(Unknown)	In regards to the performance based measurements, what are the specifics on the types of measurements?	For Cellular/Personal Communication Services (Section C.2.14.1), two key performance indicators (KPIs) will govern this service offering: Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Service Level Performance Standard (Threshold) Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) How Measured Availability (Voice Service) Routine 99.5% = 99.5% See Note 1 Time To Restore (TTR) Without Dispatch 4 hours = 4 hours See Note 2 With Dispatch 8 hours = 8 hours Note 1: Voice Service availability is calculated as the average voice service availability for the contractor's network. Note 2: See Section C.3.3.1.2.4 of the RFP for the TTR definitions and measurement guidelines.
973	Both	C.2.7.2.4.1	Numerous Performance Metrics listed in section C of this RFP will require additional customer equipment in order to provide an accurate measurement. Therefore, compliance measurements with those metrics will burden the Government with additional costs to provide in order to provide an accurate measurement. The Government has included the following language in sections C.2.7.2.4.1 and C.2.7.3.4.1, "The contractor may propose to the Government more cost effective test and measurement technique alternatives that meet or exceed the requirements in RFC 1242 and RFC 2285." Will the Government amending this type of language so it will apply to all performance metrics in Section C in order to receive the most cost effective solution?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As stated in Section E.2.2 Networx Services Verification Test Plan, "The contractor is encouraged to propose standard commercial acceptance testing procedures and thresholds to verify acceptable performance and KPI/AQL compliance." As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
974	Enterprise	B.2.7.10.2	Section C.2.7.10, IPTeIS, does not list a requirement for providing this service to OCONUS and non-domestic subscriber locations and this service is not available commercially for OCONUS and non-domestic subscribers. Please remove tables B.2.7.10.2-3 and B.2.7.10.2-4.	Networx Enterprise Attachment J.2.2 states that service is optional to non-domestic locations, and the RFP will be amended to state that service to OCONUS locations is also optional. Tables B.2.7.10.2-3 and B.2.7.10.2-4 will therefore be optional.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
975	Enterprise	C.2.7.10.1.4 (3b)	Section C.2.7.10.1.4 (3b) requires PSTN connectivity to Domestic and Non-domestic locations; however, there are no CLINs provided for PSTN termination charges. Please add tables and CLINs for PSTN termination for CONUS, OCONUS and Non-domestic.	Offnet usage that terminates either domestically or to any non-domestic country/jurisdiction served by the vendor (i.e., where the vendor has provided a price in Table B.2.7.10.2-4) shall be provided as part of the MRC for IPTeS basic service. The RFP, in an upcoming amendment, will provide a price table for usage prices for non-domestic offnet termination to those countries/jurisdictions that are not so served by the vendor. The usage price to each country/jurisdiction shall be no higher than the lowest of all prices to that country/jurisdiction where provided in the vendor's Table B.2.2.1.3-10 (if the vendor provides Voice Service) where the originating country/jurisdiction is so served by the vendor.
976	Both	B.2.3.1.3-10	In table B.2.3.1.3-10, are all N values to be utilized for PVC speeds (e.g., N=1,2,3,...30 for NxDS0 units)? Assuming they are relative to CIR values on PVC's what CLIN numbers are to be used for these values?	For NxDS0 the lower bound is 0 and the upper bound is 1984kps, thus N can be anywhere between and including 0 - 31. For Nx1Mps the lower bound is 2 and the upper bound is 45Mps, so N can be anywhere between and including 2-45. Using Table B.2.3.1.3-10, a desired PVC CIR speed is ordered by ordering multiple quantities of a CLIN. For example, to order 1024kps UFR, Routine Service Level, Simplex PVC, 16 of CLIN 0044201 must be ordered (1024kps = 16xDS0).
977	Both	B	Is there a planned one-to-one relationship between CLIN and price?	No. Additional information may be required to determine the price. Examples of additional information which may be required are SWC, volume band, and Country/Jurisdiction ID Code.
978	Enterprise	B.2.15	In general terms, the MSS and FSS Service Instruction Tables do not cover all the appropriate features and elements. Also, we do not see how and where to price the features identified in C.2.15.2.2.1. Would the Government allow additional CLIN definitions to be provided by the contractor to allow maximum flexibility and scalability in the features of these services?	Sections C.2.15 and B.2.15 are reserved in Networx Enterprise, i.e., MSS and FSS are not specified in Networx Enterprise.
979	Both	C.3.5	Within Section C.3.5, Service Ordering, the Government requests the contractor provide a Unique Billing Identifier (UBI) to uniquely identify a single service and all components of that service for each billed record. Understanding that for products which carry usage billing information, network level identifiers, such as calling card number, trunk group ID, or ANI are applicable and can typically be accommodated, however, most non-usage based billing transactions or components cannot be associated with a similar network identifier. Therefore, for non-usage billing transactions, is it acceptable that the contractor's unique Service Order ID, generated by the contractor's ordering system, serve as the UBI for each non-usage billing record associated with a completed service order?	No, the Government requires a UBI for Non-Usage billed transactions such as CKT ID, PVC ID, Equipment ID.

Questions and Answers for Networx Universal and Enterprise RFPs

#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
980	Enterprise	B.6.5	For Table B.6.5-5, please provide the "Gateway IDs."	Each offeror must supply their own Gateway IDs, they typically are numerical, but may be alphanumeric if so desired.
981			Reserved	Reserved
982	Both	(Unknown)	The Agency at the highest level of the hierarchy can have varying degrees of control over the Sub-Agencies within its hierarchy with respect to their billing choices. For example, it may impose direct or centralized billing on the entire hierarchy or may allow Sub-Agencies to choose Direct Billing or Centralized Billing. Does this imply that the highest level of the hierarchy can give permission for a lower level to choose their type of billing but the highest level still expects to be able to see reporting on this lower level?	Yes.
983	Both	B.2.3.1.3-6	In the pricing table B.2.3.1.3-6 Frame Relay Service Dedicated Port Type, there is no CLIN listed for E1 or E3, however these speeds are required in the technical volume. Vendor recommends providing two CLINs for E1 and E3 pricing.	Government will amend the RFP to provide CLINs for E1 and E3.
984	Both	B.2.3.2.3	Sub-T1 port speeds are not considered to be Industry standard. The current Industry solution for sub-T1 speeds on an ATM network for remote locations is Frame Relay with a gateway to the ATM network. All of these components are available under the current Networx RFP. Please consider removing the sub-T1 ATM port speeds in Table B.2.3.2.3-2, B.2.3.2.3-4 and B.2.3.2.3-6 from the Networx proposal.	The Government will amend the RFP to remove the Sub-T1 port speeds for ATM.
985	Both	B.2.3.1.3.3	The PVC unit order process in table B.2.3.1.3-10 is not clear. Is it the Government's intent to order a certain quantity of a specific CLIN to attain the desired PVC CIR speed? (i.e. Agency A orders quantity 5 of CLIN 0044206 to obtain a 5 Mbps CIR VFRrt PVC).	Yes.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
986	Both	B.2.5.4.2-1	There do not appear to be any CLINs for WDM or DFS access in either the OWS pricing section or in the Access Services section. Will the Government consider adding CLINs for WDM access and DFS access in order to remain consistent with the other services in the RFP?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. No additional CLINs will be specified for WDM and DFS access, because these are facility based end-to-end services. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
987	Enterprise	Ref_Enterprise_Locations	In the GSA briefings in August & November 2004, GSA presented a slide showing the 297 Enterprise buildings with T-3 or greater access were located in CONUS. The NHC reference table REF_Enterprise_Locations lists buildings in Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Additionally in the Traffic table, only Puerto Rico shows traffic. Given the lack of bandwidth of these non-CONUS locations, will GSA consider making these buildings optional?	Yes, the Networx Hosting Center list was in error and the Government will remove OCONUS locations from the list of Networx Hosting Center Mandatory Enterprise locations.
988	Enterprise	M.5.1	The Government's traffic model includes services that are optional for Enterprise offerors. What services in the traffic model will Enterprise offerors be evaluated against? How will the Government evaluate mandatory services that are not shown in the Traffic model?	Enterprise offerors will be evaluated against the required mandatory services and the optional services proposed. Section M.5.1.1 discusses how evaluation will be performed for the optional services and mandatory services that are not shown in the traffic model.
989	Both	B.2.7.11.2	Section C.2.7.11, CIPS, does not list a requirement for providing this service to OCONUS and non-domestic subscriber locations. Please remove tables B.2.7.11.2-3 and B.2.7.11.2-4 or make B.2.7.11.2.3 optional.	Section C.2.7.11.1.3 [Networx Universal] states: "The contractor shall provide CIPS for domestic locations and it is optional for non-domestic locations." Therefore, OCONUS locations (and Table B.2.7.11.2.3) are not optional in Networx Universal. In Networx Enterprise, all OCONUS or Non-Domestic locations are optional. Therefore, the Government will not amend the RFP.
990	Both	B.2.7.8.1	There are costs that are required for every VoIP transport solution for both on-to-on and on-to-off calls such as trunk provisioning on carriers soft switch, CDR tracking, dial plan management, etc. Each carrier must provision a certain number of virtual trunks in their network for each customer location based on their projected call volume. Since VOIPS uses IPS transport and CLINS cover only off-net call prices, would the Government please add CLINS for basic BOIPTS Service as described in C.2.7.8?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. Most necessary NRCs and MRCs are associated with the SEDs and underlying network. The only NRCs and MRCs associated specifically with this service are those for offnet usage. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
991	Both	C.2.4.1.1.5, B.2.4.1.4	Section C.2.4.1.1.5, IPS Feature Set lists ISDN dial up backup at 64 kbps and 128 kbps as Optional Features. However Tables B.2.4.1.4-3 lists these as mandatory features to be priced. Would the Government please provide clarification on this?	The Government will amend the RFP to mark the IPS ISDN Dial Backup features in Section B.2.4.1.4, Table B.2.4.1.4-3 as optional in both the Networx Universal and Networx Enterprise, to match the requirements listed in Section C.2.4.1.1.5 IPS Feature Set.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
992	Both	B.2.4.1.3.1-2 and B.2.4.1.3.2-2	Section B, Tables B.2.4.1.3.1-2 and B.2.4.1.3.2-2 has CLINs for Embedded - ISDN (at 64 Kbps and 128Kbps) (CLINS 07440022/0744003 and 0744439/744440). The Charging unit for these CLINs is Per Port. Commercial practice for ISDN is an MRC for the access line and a price per minute of usage. Is the intent of the Government to request 'Flat fee for unlimited usage' by have a 'Per Port' charging unit? How is the service described by these CLINs physically different than that ordered under CLINs 0749002 and 0749003?	Yes, the Government is requesting unlimited ISDN service for all the Embedded ISDN CLINs in the IPS Pricing Instructions Tables. There is no difference between the Embedded ISDN service in these Tables and the ISDN backup service listed as a feature in Table B.2.4.1.4-3 (i.e., CLINs 0749002 and 0749003). The first ISDN service is the primary one, while the second one can be setup to automatically work in case any primary IPS service fails.
993	Both	B.2.7.4.3-2, B.2.7.4-2 and B.2.7.4.5-2	Section B, Tables B.2.7.4.3-2, B.2.7.4.3-2, and B.2.7.4.5-2. Help Desk Service, Network Isolation (Air Gap), NSA approved Multilivel Security Solution, Packet Filtering Service, Security Maintenance, and Security Certification Support Service have separate CLINs depending on the Security Tier of the particular Agency location. This is appropriate due to the significant differences in cost associated with providing these services within multiple Tiers of MTSS. Contractor recommends adding additional CLINs for the following products: Anti-Virus, Firewall, Intrusion Detection, Incident Response, Premise based VPN, Secure Managed Email, and Vulnerability Scanning in order to reflect the varying costs associated with providing the services to each Tier.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. The Government will not add CLINs to Tables B.2.7.4.3-2 - Tier 2, B.2.7.4.4-2 - Tier 3, or Table B.2.7.4.5-2 - Tier 4 in Section B.2.7.4 to allow different MTSS Tier pricing for Anti-Virus, Firewall, Intrusion Detection, Incident Response, Premise-based VPN, Secured Managed Email, and Vulnerability Scanning services. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
994	Both	C.2.10.5.1.4 and C.2.7.4.1.4.1	Section C.2.10.5.1.4 and Section C.2.7.4.1.4.1 Table C.2.7.4.1.4.1 indicates that INRS must be provided at Tier 4 facilities. Tier 4 networks are defined in Section C.2.7.4.1.3.4 as networks "that operate in a closed and isolated network environment." Section C.2.10.5.1.1.4 #7 indicates that the contractor shall provide secure web access. Contractor recommends creating an additional CLIN to cover the cost of installing and maintaining agency specific dedicated web servers.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. The Government will not add CLINs to Table B.2.7.4.3-2 - Tier 2, Table B.2.7.4.4-2 - Tier 3, or Table B.2.7.4.5-2 - Tier 4 in Section B.2.7.4 MTSS to cover installation and maintenance costs. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
995	Both	C.2.5.4	Wavelength Service - Can protected Wave be offered via a CPE switching option and be compliant?	Yes, provided that the working and protected wavelengths travel physically separate channels (cable and conduit).

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
996	Both	C.3.6.1, C.3.6.2, C.3.6.3, C.3.6.4	Sections L and C are in perceived conflict about how to structure our responses within Management. For example, Section C.3.6 Billing has four subparts: L.34.2.3.10 Billing references C.3.6. Our L.34.2.3.10 has four subparts of C.3.6 as the primary break, and the data and media steps as the secondary break. However, L.34.2.310a and L.34.2.310b indicate using the Data Dictionary and Information Exchange as the primary break, and the cited subparts of C.3.6, above, as the secondary break. Please verify that offeror should use the four subparts of C.3.6 as the primary break within L.34.2.3.10, and also in corresponding portions of Management.	The offeror should use the structure associated with the component of Section C.3 (e.g. Section C.3.6 Billing) as it is described in Section L.34.
997	Both	B.2.6.3, B.2.2.1.1.2	Section B.2.6.3 of the RFP states, "The core CS package consists of an unlimited usage of local, regional toll and domestic long distance services." In Section B.2.2.1.1.2, the optional pricing structure for VS is, " a. Flat monthly rate for transport usage (inclusive of a pre-determined number of maximum allowable minutes per month", and "b. Transport usage per additional six-second increments for minutes of use above the maximum allowed per month." Will the Government consider a using this pricing structure for the local usage portion for CS? Such a pricing structure will allow bidders to offer many different plans to meet the wide-ranging requirements of the Government's end-users.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. The Government will not change the existing "unlimited usage of local, regional toll, and long distance services" price structure for the CS core packages in Section B.2.6.3. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
998	Both	C.2.11.10	Are there available metrics regarding the move/adds/changes for storage resource management functions?	No.
999	Both	C.2.11.10	In support of the Storage Services, what types of operating system platforms are to be supported, i.e. mainframe (MVS), Unix, Windows OS400?	GSA expects that all operating systems platforms be supported by the contractors as specified by the subscribing agencies. Pricing mechanisms are included in Section B.2.11.10. This information is specific to each Agency. Agency specific details regarding implementation for storage services will be provided by the Agency ordering the service.
1000	Both	B.2.14.5.2	The pricing tables do not provide for a distinction between metro and nationwide plans, while current GSA schedules for paging services include both metro and nationwide plans. These schedules offer a less expensive service for those users who only need paging services in the metro area. Will the Government be agreeable to modify pricing tables to provide the option to price both metro and nationwide paging services?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1001	Both	B.3.2.1-6	CLIN 0760139 mandates that bidders provide pricing for SDSL service at 2.3 Mbps / 2.3 Mbps, which is not a currently a commercial service. We recommend that bidders be allowed to price the request of 2.3 Mbps SDSL as an ICB. Would the Government be agreeable to allowing bidders to price the 2.3 Mbps SDSL as an ICB?	SDSL service at 2.3 Mbps/2.3Mbps will be made optional in an upcoming RFP amendment.
1002	Both	C	For CLIN # 0119004 Fax on Demand, the RFP states that pricing be provided MRC per site. The definition of "per site" is unclear. We recommend the GSA define a site as a user of the Fax on Demand service, and allow for pricing on a per page delivered basis. Will the Government define a site as a user of the Fax on Demand service and accept pricing on a per page delivered basis?	The Government will amend the RFP to change the charging unit for CLIN 0119004 from "per site" to "per page". The Government will also amend the RFP to change the charging unit from "per site" to "per user" for CLINs 01199001, 0119002, 0119005, and 0119006.
1003	Both	C	For CLIN # 0119003 Fax Broadcast the RFP states that pricing is to be provided MRC per site. The definition of "per site" is unclear. Commercially, fax broadcasting pricing is provided on a per page basis. We recommend the GSA define a site as an individual desktop internet fax user, and allow pricing for fax broadcast on a per page basis. Will the Government accept pricing on a per page basis from a site as defined above?	The Government will amend the RFP to change the charging unit for CLIN 0119003 from "per site" to "per page".
1004	Both	B.2.4.5.2-4	The RFP mandates that "the customer may choose to pay (1) either a MRC for unlimited inbound and outbound faxing or (2) a per-page rate for usage." CLINS provided for "IFS Email-to-Fax" and "IFS Web-to-Fax" are for unlimited usage only. There are no CLINS for a per-page rate for both of these services. We recommend that GSA include CLINS for "IFS Email-to-Fax" and "IFS Web-to-Fax" with a Per Page Charging Unit. This proposed solution is in keeping with commercial practice and can benefit the Government as it provides more options. Will the Government provide CLINS for "IFS Email-to-Fax" and "IFS Web-to-Fax" with a Per Page Charging Unit?	The Government will amend the RFP to add CLINs for "IFS Email-to-Fax" and "IFS Web-to-Fax" with a per page charging unit.
1005	Both	B	The RFP has added a Non-Domestic Location Price Adjustment table (B.4.8.7-1) for DNRC and DMRCs; however, the Maintenance MRC (MMRC) was not referenced. Due to the potential differences in cost of maintenance based upon geographic location, we recommend that the Government add a Non-Domestic Price Adjustment table for MMRC that is ICB with case numbers. Would the Government be agreeable to doing this?	No. The Government will not add a Non-Domestic Price Adjustment table for MMRC that is ICB with case numbers. The price table structure in the RFP already permits the application of different MMRC price levels for the same DNRC/DMRC. The MMRC price level for the same SED CLIN may vary by CONUS, OCONUS areas, and by non-domestic Area of the World (AOW).

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1006	Both	B	This section explains the cost of money factor to be used in Table B.4.8.2-1 for term payment options at 24, 36, and 48 months. This cost of money factor to be used for term payment options, based upon Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturities, does not provide the vendor with a viable rate of return on their capital investments, especially considering 1) the extraordinary risk the government is placing upon the vendors with the 2 month "refurbishment payment clause" for all option periods (24, 36 and 48 month) explained in the same section and 2) the government's assumption that the vendor will be able to refurbish and resell the SED and has not become technologically obsolete. Would GSA be agreeable to changing the cost of money factor table to allow each individual vendor to populate based upon their own assessment of their capital costs and risks associated with the recoupment of their expected capital investment?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.
1007	Both	(Unknown)	The draft Networx RFPs included the NAICS codes, but we have not been able to locate the codes in the final documents. Please clarify the applicable NAICS codes for both Universal and Enterprise.	The NAICS code is 517110 for both Networx Universal and Networx Enterprise as indicated in the Fed BizOpps announcements. This information will be added in an upcoming amendment.
1008	Both	(Unknown)	Should the Plans documents appended to the proposal (Security Plan, Training Plan, etc.) follow the same formatting guidelines as the many body of the proposal as set forth in RFP Section L.33; or can they be formatted in a manner that will be most appropriate for their eventual use after award as (updateable) manuals targeted to technical, management, training specialists, and others? (In other words, does the Government wish to see an accurate facsimile of a bidder provided Plan—contents and layout—or is just interested in content?)	The Plans included in the proposal should represent the content and layout the offeror intends to use after contract award while adhering to the formatting requirements for the proposal in Section L.33. The Government does not see a conflict.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1009	Universal	L.34.1.4.4	Section L.34.1.4.1(d) states that for each mandatory service identified in Figure C.2-1 for Transport/IP/Optical Services, the offeror shall: (a) Given the offeror's current network capacity and utilization, explain how the offeror will support the Government requirements specified in the traffic model. Describe the impact on capacity and utilization, as well as any infrastructure build out contemplated. For the Virtual Private Network Services defined in RFP Section C.2.7, pages C-144 thru C-215, network capacity and utilization is described in the access and transport services defined in section C.2.14 Wireless Services, C.2.15 Satellite Services, and C.2.16 Access Arrangements. We recommend the requirement in the proposal template to describe the network capacity and utilization for each of the Virtual Private Network Services defined in RFP Section C.2.7, pages C-144 thru C-215 be deleted. Would the Government be agreeable to that proposed solution?	The Government will not delete the requirement. However, the introductory sentence in Section L.34.1.4.4 will be changed to "The offeror shall" to indicate that the items do not necessarily apply to each service, but to the Transport/IP/Optical services as a whole.
1010	Both	C.2.14.3.1.3	The RFP States that 'The SDP shall be at the mobile terminal.' We assume this means the air interface at the mobile terminal. Please confirm that this statement means the air interface. Would the Government be agreeable to this solution?	Yes. The SDP for Agency-owned mobile terminal (e.g., wireless enabled Laptop) is the air-link interface.
1011	Both	C.2.14.5.1.1	The functional definition defines certain FCC approved bands. The Mobitex services (Blackberry) operate in other FCC approved bands. We recommend the Government modify the paging service functional definition to include FCC approved bands for the Mobitex services. We also recommend the Government add a capabilities section (C.2.14.5.1.4.3) that defines Mobitex capabilities for the RFP. Would the Government be agreeable to this solution?	The current RFP indicates that the Government will accept paging services based on Mobitex technology. Refer to Section C.2.14.5.1.2.
1012	Universal	C.2.15.2	The RFP states that the connection from the satellite earth station for the SDB is included in this service. Since the satellite earth station may be collocated with the SDP or may be hundreds/thousands of miles away, bundling this cost into the service. We recommend this requirement be deleted. Would the Government be agreeable to this solution?	Yes, the connection requirement from the SDP to the contractor's teleport will be deleted in an upcoming amendment. The RFP will then read "Any connection from the satellite earth station on the using Agency's premise to the SDP is included in this service".
1013	Both	B.2.14.1.1	The government states that "the MRC for access shall depend upon the type of plan and the coverage area including the usage allowance". The government has included CLINs for plan charges. However, there does not seem to be associated tables that will allow a vendor to define the coverage area for each related plan. Will the Government consider adding table(s) to allow the vendor to define proposed coverage for each of their national plans proposed?	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1014	Both	J.5.2	The RFP requirements for audio and video conferencing services SEDs contains several features and capabilities that are (a) not supported by international industry standards: ITU-T, or (b) proprietary to one manufacturer. In either case, the resulting solutions would impose unfair limitations on Government end users that would (a) severely limit interoperability, (b) not protect investments in existing standards compliant technologies, and (c) limit government end-users choice to a single vendor eliminating the possibility for a best-value selection criteria to compliment the minimum requirements intent of the SED. For example, in SEDs Set No. 50, paragraph 6, the video input support specifies a pin count that excludes many vendors' equipment offerings. This offeror can provide details of additional recommended changes, to allow for additional equipment manufacturer offerings, if the GSA desires. Will the Government consider revising the equipment specifications in SED Set Nos. 45, 50 and 51 to allow offerors to propose conferencing equipment from multiple vendors?	The Government will amend the RFP to revise the equipment specifications in SED Set Nos. 45, 50 and 51.
1015	Both	C	The RFP mandates support for post-paid and pre-paid calling card capabilities however clarification is requested. It would appear the Government requires the cards to support Class of Service capabilities and potentially other private voice service features like support for private dial plans, custom intercept announcements, etc. The COS requirement appears somewhat redundant since the purpose of COS is to prevent unauthorized calling (i.e. fraudulent calls). However, the exposure of pre-paid cards and post-paid cards with budget limits is the card limit itself. This results in a relatively low risk. It is understood that post-paid calling cards without budget limits would require the previously mentioned features however, pre-paid and post-paid budget cards may not. Between the alternatives of developing new private network calling card capabilities to meet the perceived mandatory Networx requirements or proposing commercial PSTN pre-paid and post-paid budget cards, the Government may be better served from a value perspective by the latter because they could be presumed to have a lower cost.	Voice Service Feature requirements for "Authorization Codes/Calling Cards - Post-Paid and Pre-Paid calling cards" will not be modified.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
			We recommend GSA modify the RFP feature requirement (Authorization Codes/Calling Cards – Post-Paid and Pre-Paid calling cards) by stating that commercial PSTN pre-paid and post-paid budget cards are acceptable or alternatively, stating the requirement for incorporation with private voice network features like COS is optional. Would GSA be agreeable to modifying the requirement per the suggested language above?	
1016	Both	C	<p>Requirements listed in C, Paragraph C.3.3.1.2.4 ID # 16 / Page # C-399 is in direct conflict with Requirements listed in Section C, Paragraph C.3.4.2.2.2 ID #1 and ID #2/ Page # C-432, with the assumption being made that a service-affecting fault would result in a trouble ticket. Section C, Paragraph C.3.3.1.2.4 ID # 16 states "The contractor shall update progress status information every 30 minutes until the service-affecting fault is resolved." Section C, Paragraph C.3.4.2.2.2 ID #1 states "The contractor shall provide the status of an open trouble report for non-TSP services verbally to the initiator of the report every two hours, unless the requester authorizes updates by e-mail, designates an alternate contact, requests status intervals longer than two hours, or agrees to obtain ad hoc updates through the method described in C.3.4.2.2.3, Ad Hoc Trouble and Complaint Status Inquiries."</p> <p>Section C, Paragraph C.3.4.2.2.2 ID #2 states "For an open trouble report involving a TSP service, the contractor shall provide status updates every hour to the initiator or alternate contact as authorized by the initiator." We recommend stating a consistent amount of minutes a status update is expected for non-TSP and TSP codes services. Would the Government be agreeable to this requested change?</p>	The requirement in Section C.3.3.1.2.6 pertains to updates available on the website for all service-affecting faults, whether the Government reported them or the contractor detected them; those in Section C.3.4.2.2.2 are for reporting status directly to the Government user who initiated the report or the appropriate alternate in the media specified. The requirements of both sections must be met and will not be amended. We will, however, amend the Glossary to include the definition of service-affecting fault.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1017	Both	J.5	<p>The RFP mandates that all SEDs to be classified with a Requirement Set number based on the Service, Bandwidth, and UNI requirements from Table J.5.1 – 'Location-based Requirement Sets'. The RFP also requires that the contractor comply with the technical requirements from Section C, and the pricing requirements from Section B, for all services. There are multiple inconsistencies between the requirements from Sections B and C, and the requirements from the Requirement Sets in Section J. One example would be the technical and pricing requirements for ATM OC-12, OC-48, and OC-192 circuits (Pricing CLINs found on table B.2.5.1.2-5 and B.2.5.1.2-6). The contractor is required to provide the above mentioned ATM high speed circuits, however there are no Set Numbers for any speed above an OC-3 circuit in Table J.5.1. Other examples include Section C requiring specific User-to-Network Interface (UNI) types for a particular services, however those UNI types are not included in Table J.5.1. The contractor can not provide a complete SED list with Set Numbers as defined in section J.5 due to the inconsistencies.</p> <p>We recommend that the Government revise the table with new Requirement Set numbers to correct any inconsistencies between the technical requirements from Section C, the pricing requirements from Section B, and the Requirement Sets in Section J. This will allow the contractors to categorize all SEDs as required by the RFP. Would the Government be agreeable to revise the Requirement Sets Table J.5.1 from the RFP?</p>	<p>No, the Government will not revise the SEDs Requirement Sets Table J.5.1. The Requirement Sets are not intended to reflect an exhaustive list of SEDs corresponding to all technical requirements in Section C and all pricing requirements in Section B. The Sets were created to reflect a general set of known Government requirements for SEDs based on current and near term agency needs. The proposed SEDs resulting from the listed Requirement Sets should, in general, be sufficient for the initial post-award transition period. Over the life of the contract, additional SEDs will have to be added to meet new requirements and technological change. The Government believes the proposed price structure, based on manufacturer's list pricing and contractor-defined Device Classes, should enhance the contractor's ability to quickly add SEDs to the contract, especially through the critical transition period.</p>
1018	Both	C.3.5.1.2.2.5	<p>Reference service delivery intervals and SLA compliancy: 1. Would the Government clarify the definition and requirements related to the Firm Order Commitment Notification as there are conflicting statements in the RFP? See referenced sections below. The first reference below seems to apply to the vendor committed install date while the second reference seems to apply to the access delivery date. Will the government please confirm that this is an accurate interpretation of the FOC dates referenced? If this is not correct, will the government please clarify? Section J11 states: The Firm order commitment date may not be adjusted for any reason. The contractor may record delays in service delivery due to the customer delaying the customer want date or the customer not being ready to accept the service on the firm order commitment date, but the contractor shall not change the firm order commitment date from what was delivered on the Firm Order Commitment Notice</p>	<p>Question 1. The referenced statement in Attachment J.11 for the Firm Order Commitment date stand as written. This date is what the contractor has committed to. If the contractor is unable to meet the firm order commitment, due to contractor problems, they will provide a Firm Order Commitment Notice with the a new date the service will be delivered by. The original Firm Order Commitment date remains unchanged for the SLA measurement. Question 2. The Firm Order Commitment date in the Networx RFP is the date the Networx vendor commits to. It should include whatever activities are required to fulfill the commitment. The Firm Order Confirmation date is the date the LEC or other provider of local access service has committed to.</p>

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
			<p>Section C.3.5.1.2.2.5 ID 7 states: The contractor shall provide an updated Firm Order Commitment Notice to the ordering Agency one business day after becoming aware of any change in its ability to meet the firm order commitment date. 2. Is it the Government's intention for the Firm Order Commitment date on the notification to be the contractor defined Firm Order Commitment date based on the LEC FOC date plus the necessary time to coordinate CPE and turn up with the agency? In various sections of the RFP, the government provides varying descriptions of the term "Firm Order Commitment Date." In some areas, the RFP description seems to equate the FOC Date to the LEC-provided Firm Order Commitment, which is, essentially, the date the LEC or access provider commits to deliver the loop to the customer premise. However, if equipment is to be installed, the contractor will never meet the prescribed intervals because delivery of CPE is not until after the loop has been dropped and tested by the contractor.</p> <p>It frequently takes several days for the circuit to be accepted by the contractor on circuits DS3 and above. For example, if it is dropped on the LEC FOC date, and 1 day is needed to test and 2 days to coordinate CPE, the contractor is destined to miss the Customer Want Date. Based on the RFP penalties, the contractor would be penalized with 50% of the NRC or 50% of the MRC, whichever is greater. The LEC rarely drops a loop before the LEC FOC date, which will cause the contractor to pay penalties on nearly every circuit that has the interval dependent on the LEC FOC. Also, on customer-provided access, the contractor we will be dependent on the customer for notification of the FOC date from their access provider.</p>	

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1019	Both	H.28	<p>It is requested that the Government allow the contractor to have separate billable line items for all Government-imposed and regulatory-based fees, not just the ones listed. Accordingly, the following language is suggested as a replacement for the language beginning with "Federal Universal Service Fund" and ending with "listed above": "those fees and surcharges described in a-e, below. These items will not be treated as taxes in compliance with the FAR clause that is incorporated by I.1.53. The Government will require the contractor to provide sufficient information, upon request, to allow the Government to establish that the fees and surcharges" [This proposed change also corrects the cross reference by changing it from I.1.52 to I.1.53.] Alternatively, H.28 should be revised to clarify that the contractor may pass through to the Government currently applicable charges and costs directly imposed by governmental authority, in addition to those listed, such as state universal fund charges, state regulatory assessments, payphone surcharges, and foreign wireless termination charges.</p> <p>Otherwise, the contractor will be forced to establish prices sufficient to offset unanticipated regulatory fees that, in a commercial setting under standard commercial contract provisions, it would be able to pass through to customers. These changes would also eliminate a possible inconsistency with other Sections (e.g., B.2.6.3) that allow the pass-through of regulatory fees and surcharges.</p>	In an upcoming amendment, the Government will revise the clause to correct the reference to I.1.53; however, the Government will not amend the RFP to adopt the other proposed changes.
1020	Both	H.28	<p>The enumerated conditions for allowing billing of Government-imposed and regulatory-based fees and surcharges as separate billable line items are potentially vague and too restrictive. Specifically, condition b requires that the fees and surcharges be "Fair and reasonable," a condition that is beyond the control of the contractor and could be particularly perverse in application (if the Government imposed an unfair or unreasonable fee and then precluded the contractor from billing for that). Also, condition d could create unfair and unanticipated costs. The contractor might, in a short-term commercial contract, not include language providing for the pass through of certain government fees or it might include such fees as an integral component of its prices. For example, if the FCC imposed a 1% regulatory fee in 2007, the contractor might elect prospectively, in a commercial setting, to include that 1% fee in its base price rather than as a separate billable line item.</p>	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
			<p>The other conditions provide sufficient protection for the Government and are consistent with commercial practices, which allow the pass through of governmental fees and charges to the extent they are not already reflected in the price. Condition e, requiring pro-rata allocation of charges among all customers subject to the charges, would apply only to revenue-based charges. However, occasionally such charges are imposed on a per-call or other non-revenue basis, and that provision would be inapplicable. Accordingly, it is suggested that the following language replace the listed conditions and the introductory portion of the sentence:</p> <p>Accordingly, it is suggested that the following language replace the listed conditions and the introductory portion of the sentence: "The Government will require the contractor to provide sufficient information, upon request, to allow the Government to establish that the line items for the allowed fees and surcharges, both at award and throughout the life of the contract:</p> <p>a. Do not include any fees or surcharges from which the Government is exempt, and b. Are applied in a fair and reasonable manner, and c. Limited to the pass through of actual charges or imposed costs associated with the fees and surcharges (compensation for administrative costs is not permitted), and d. No greater than those charged to similarly situated customers for which the pass through is billed as a separate line item, and e. With respect to line items for fees or surcharges based on revenues, no greater than what would be charged under an equal pro-rata allocation (based on subject revenues) among all the contractor's customers for services subject to the charges.</p>	
1021	Both	H.7	<p>The Government has increased the frequency of the PMM process. In the draft, the first PMM was not to occur earlier than 24 months after award and thereafter at least 24 months apart. The RFP now states the frequency in terms of 12 months apart for each service, but no more than 5 times per service over the 10 year life of the contract. This increased frequency could result in the contractors and the government being involved in a PMM review multiple times for different services in each 12 month period tying up scarce resources of the government and increasing the costs for the contractors virtually on a continuous basis throughout the initial term of the contract, which costs are ultimately reflected in higher prices to the government. A benchmarking process would avoid this and would still provide the government with needed information to ensure it is receiving competitive pricing. Please consider replacing the PMM with a benchmarking process.</p>	<p>The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. The Government believes that PMM phased approach will result in reasonable process frequency and resource expenditure for both the Government and contractors. The PMM process strives to maintain the competitiveness of the Networx prices after award and throughout the life of the program when competition among the contractors may not. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.</p>

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
			There is nothing but the number of products offered by a contractor beyond the mandatory services to limit the number of rounds of PMM implementation in which a contractor may have to participate in each 12 month period. If PMM was implemented for each service in any given year of the term of the contract, a contractor would have to participate in PMM at least 9 times (once for each of the 9 mandatory product offerings) in a 12 month period. This possibility of multiple rounds of PMM will have the effect of increasing pricing to accommodate for the cost of such a process rather than have the intended effect of lowering pricing. The Government should rely on the hyper-competitive pricing in the industry rather than impose the burden of PMM on contractors, just as commercial customers of the industry do. It is requested that the H.7 be deleted in its entirety.	
1022	Both	H.7	The RFP continues to employ a Price Management Mechanism (PMM) despite the flaws of such a mechanism pointed out in the industry Questions. It is strongly recommended that an alternative Industry Benchmarking process administered by a neutral third party be used to monitor the competitiveness of Networx prices. Such a process would avoid the difficulties presented by confidential commercial agreements and would also allow all participating contractors to protect confidential information from disclosure. Such a process also would avoid the need to determine the comparability of individual commercial contracts to the Networx contracts. Benchmarking processes have been effectively employed in other IT government contracts to enable the government to monitor competitive pricing conditions. The telecommunications marketplace is vigorously competitive and this less intrusive means of monitoring prices will serve the same purpose as the PMM.	The RFP accurately reflects the Government requirement. The Government will not use a third party to monitor the competitiveness of the Networx contracts. The Government also believes that Section H.7.2 provides an objective and effective process for selecting comparison contracts. As such, the Government will not amend the RFP.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
			<p>If this alternative benchmarking approach is rejected, at a minimum, the requirement to submit comparison contracts does not include a provision requiring comparable terms and conditions that would affect prices. If such a requirement is not incorporated in the description of the comparison contracts that must be submitted, application of this Price Management Mechanism may result in the erroneous suggestion that prices need to be reduced, when, in fact, the disparate terms and conditions explain the price differences. This could lead to a ratcheting down of prices that is not supported by market conditions and which could disrupt a contractors commercial price relationships as well. Therefore, it is suggested that the pricing plans (both multi-service and single-service) to be produced, as required by H.7.2, be plans "with comparable rate affecting terms and conditions."</p>	
1023	Both	C.1.4	<p>The RFP states that "Optional services are specified in Figure C.2.1. The contractor shall provide optional services where those services are offered commercially by the contractor. After contract award, the contractor shall update its optional service coverage by contract modification to remain current with its commercial coverage. Optional service awards will be made at the time of contract award. After contract award notification, any optional service not awarded to a contractor will remain in scope but will not be considered for addition to the contractor's awarded contract for 24 months after contract award notification. After the 24 month period expires, and when in the Government's best interests, the Government will consider proposals by the contractor to incorporate any non awarded service specified in Section C.2. into its contract by contract modification."</p> <p>Are we correct in our understanding from the RFP that if an optional service is not offered by a bidder at the time of proposal submission, the bidder is precluded from modifying their contract to offer it for a period of two (2) years post award?</p>	<p>Any optional service, feature or alternative specified in the RFP that is not proposed by the offeror at the time of submission and subsequently accepted by the Government cannot be added to an awarded contract by contract modification for a period of two years. Services, features or alternatives that are new or emerging offerings (i.e., not specified in the RFP) may be proposed for addition by contract modification at any time after award.</p>

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
1024	Both	C.2.7.2.1.3	<p>Please provide the instruction on what is needed to respond that the offeror will "comply" for requirements one through three in this section. Does the offeror have to support all listed examples for tunneling standards, encryption levels and authentication services in order to say "comply", or does the offeror "comply" as long as some of the listed items are provided? Is the requirement stating that the contractor must support any standard tunneling protocol specified by an agency? Is there an all-inclusive list of protocols that must be supported? Is the requirement that the contractor support any standard encryption algorithm specified by an agency? Is there an all-inclusive list of encryption algorithms that must be supported? Is the requirement that the contractor support any standard authentication service specified by an agency? Is there an all-inclusive list of authentication services that must be supported? Will the specific authentication vendor for a given service be specified by the contractor or by the agency?</p> <p>Will it be necessary for the contractor to support different vendors' solutions for a given authentication service for different agencies?</p>	The Government requires open, standards-based solutions for premises-based IP VPNs. In this regard, "open" denotes non-proprietary technology that is widely used in the marketplace. The contractor is expected to support tunneling standards, encryption levels, and authentication services which are widely used in the marketplace. The Government expects an offeror to propose the tunneling standards, encryption levels, and authentication services it supports in the commercial marketplace. The examples provided are provided as examples not requirements.
1025	Both	Response to Question 630	The Government's answer to Question 630 still leaves unaddressed the issue of what a compliant response must contain, because the answer does not resolve contradictory RFP requirements. RFP Sections J.9(b)(1) and L.34.1.2(B) prohibit a narrative description of stipulated requirements, as follows: J.9(b)1 states: The offeror shall, if it agrees to compliance, commit to the satisfaction of specific requirements characterized as stipulated by checking compliance in the appropriate stipulated requirements cross-reference table. Offerors shall not provide additional language in the proposal for stipulated requirements that are checked as compliant. L.34.1.2(b) states: If the offeror agrees to comply with a specific stipulated requirement in its entirety, no additional language pertaining to that requirement shall be provided.	Question 1: The prohibition on additional language associated with stipulated requirements only applies to completing the Attachment J.9 Cross-Reference Tables. The prohibition does not apply to specific questions included in Section L.34 (or Section L.35 for Networx Enterprise) or the Attachment J.9 narrative requirements. Question 2: The requirements are not contradictory as explained in Question 1. The answer provided should fully explain the question asked in Section L.34 or the narrative response required from the J.9 narrative requirements.

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#	Acquisition	RFP Section	Redacted Question	Redacted Answer
			<p>RFP Section L.34.1.4.3(a) (among others), however, requires a narrative description of these same stipulated requirements, as follows: For each mandatory service identified in Figure C.2-1 for Transport/IP/Optical Services, the offeror shall:(a) Provide a technical description of how the service requirements (e.g., capabilities, features, interfaces) are satisfied. So, for example, certain services (e.g., Voice, CSDS) are addressed entirely in the Section J Stipulated tables. However, Section L requires offerors to "provide a technical description" of how they meet these same C requirements (i.e., Capabilities, Features, Interfaces), leaving offerors faced with the following dilemma: 1. Offerors will be inherently non-compliant with J.9(b)1 and L.34.1.2(b) if they "describe" (i.e., provide "narrative" for) the capabilities, features, and interfaces in response to L.34.1.4.3(a).</p> <p>2. Depending upon GSA's intentions and the offeror's interpretation, offerors may or may not be compliant in their responses to Section L.34.1.4.3, because the "technical description" required could be: (a) detailed point-by-point responses to capability, feature, interface C requirements or, instead (b)a general high-level overview, which we assume is already addressed in RFP section L.34.1.4.1(a) (among others), which states: Analyze the service requirements specified in this solicitation and describe the approaches to service delivery for each service. While we appreciate GSA's intention to reduce the amount of narrative required from bidders through the use of "stipulated" requirements, the RFP as currently written still requires narrative covering stipulated requirements—in spite of specific RFP prohibitions from doing so. Until this conflict is resolved, offerors will have to judge for themselves what level of description (i.e., narrative) will be compliant for stipulated requirements.</p> <p>This uncertainty may result in responses that are inconsistent in terms of detail, focus, etc.—and possibly, not fully compliant. This in turn may jeopardize a respondent's proposal, and may complicate GSA's bid evaluation. Q1: If the Government's prohibition on addressing stipulated requirements (RFP Section J.9(b)1 and L.34.1.2(b) stands, will the government revise L to clearly state that no narrative is required for those stipulated requirements? Q2: If, however, the government continues to require a narrative (i.e., technical description as outlined in L) for requirements that are addressed in the stipulated tables, will the government please: a) remove the prohibition from doing so in RFP Sections J.9(b)1 and L.34.1.2(b), and b) define specific level of detail desired for Sections like L.34.1.4.3(a) to ensure a compliant response?</p>	